

The County of Lexington's Broadband Story

As an anchor community of central South Carolina, the County of Lexington is widely heralded by leaders of the state and region as one of the most progressive counties in the Palmetto State, a fact reiterated through the extensive Connect South Carolina/Connected Nation assessment process. This process confirms that the County of Lexington is excelling in the fields of new and emerging technologies and in preparing students and workforce to compete in an increasingly competitive, diverse, and global marketplace. A centerpiece of the County's commitment to technological advancement is the construction of the County's new 220 acre technology park in Chapin, South Carolina. Once completed, the new park will include point-to-point fiber delivery to individual buildings, as well as CAT 6 Ethernet cable installation on the complex.

Lexington's school systems are also leading the way in advancing the use of broadband technology in the community. For example, Lexington School District One is generally recognized as one of the most innovative districts in the state with its use of technology, having for several years operated a virtual high school and being among the first school systems in the state to launch a one-to-one student iPad program. Lexington/Richland School District Five also leads in these technology efforts as their Center for Advanced Technical Studies is a prestigious test site for Google Glass, a wearable computer, only available to a few thousand students in the entire country. Moreover, groundbreaking technology integration is occurring in School District's Two, Three, and Four, which each have vigorous technology plans. Lexington County's five school districts are proudly among the leaders in the story of broadband growth through their integration of comprehensive technology plans with real world instruction.

The County is working aggressively to close the digital divides that exist in the community and is committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable populations are digitally literate and prepared

for 21st Century jobs. The school systems, libraries, parks and non-profit organizations collaborated over the past year to offer more than 50,000 free hours of community digital literacy programming. This programming included online job assistance, GED programming, services for persons with disabilities as well as programming for those living in the rural areas of the County and digital literacy programming for individuals for whom English is not their primary language.

In short, the County of Lexington and its partners are working collectively to improve the digital advancement opportunities for everyone in the community. This ongoing effort contributes greatly to consistently being recognized for vast economic opportunities, innovative school systems, and exceptional quality of life. Earning the prestigious designation of a Certified Connected Community further lays the foundation for continued technological successes.